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**TORRANCE CITY COUNCIL JANUARY 27, 2015**

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At 12:04 a.m., January 28, the meeting was adjourned to Tuesday, February 10, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. for a joint meeting with the Parks and Recreation Commission in the West Annex Commission meeting room, with regular business commencing at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber. Tuesday, February 3, 2015 will be a Council dark night.

January 27, 2015

**MINUTES OF AN ADJOURNED REGULAR  
MEETING OF THE TORRANCE CITY COUNCIL**

**JOINT MEETING of City Council and Commission on Aging**

The Torrance City Council convened in a joint meeting with the Commission on Aging on Tuesday, January 27, 2015 at 5:20 p.m. in the West Annex Commission meeting room. Topics of discussion included the needs and concerns of seniors in the community.

At 6:07 p.m., the City recessed to conduct regular business in the Council Chamber no earlier than 7:00 p.m.

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The City Council reconvened at 7:01 p.m. in the Council Chamber.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Councilmembers Ashcraft, Barnett, Goodrich, Griffiths, Rizzo, Weideman and Mayor Furey.

Absent: None.

Present: City Manager Jackson, Assistant City Manager Giordano, City Attorney Fellows, City Clerk Poirier and other staff representatives.

**2. FLAG SALUTE/ INVOCATION**

The flag salute was led by Councilmember Griffiths.

The non-sectarian invocation was given by Councilmember Rizzo.

**3. REPORT OF CITY CLERK ON POSTING OF THE AGENDA/ MOTION TO WAIVE FURTHER READING**

City Clerk Poirier reported that the agenda was posted on the Public Notice Board at 3031 Torrance Boulevard on Thursday, January 22, 2015.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Rizzo moved that after the City Clerk has read aloud the number and title to any resolution or ordinance on the meeting agenda, the further reading thereof shall be waived, reserving and guaranteeing to each Councilmember the right to demand the reading of any such resolution or ordinance in regular order. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Barnett and passed by unanimous vote.

**4. WITHDRAWN, DEFERRED OR SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS**

No items were withdrawn or deferred. Supplemental material was available for items 8H, 9A, 10A, 12B, and 12I.

**5. COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Councilmember Griffiths, chair of the Ad Hoc Web Redesign Committee, reported that the Committee, which is charged with redesigning the City's website, met earlier today and will be

conducting public outreach to learn what people would like included on the website and the next meeting will be held in approximately 45 days.

Councilmember Griffiths announced that the City will be hosting a workshop to discuss potential historic preservation programs, focusing on the original Torrance Tract, on Thursday, January 29, from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. at the Bartlett Center located at 1318 Cravens Avenue. He noted that those unable to attend may send written comments to the Planning Division of the Community Development Department at 3031 Torrance Boulevard, Torrance 90503 or via email at [CDDinfo@Torrance.CA.gov](mailto:CDDinfo@Torrance.CA.gov), with additional information available at 310- 618-5990.

Fire Chief Racowski announced that ExxonMobil would be conducting their monthly community siren alert testing on Wednesday, February 4, 2015 at approximately 11:30 a.m., with additional information available at 310-212-1852.

Councilmember Griffiths asked that the meeting be adjourned in memory of former Torrance Transit employee George Garten who passed away January 10, 2015 at the age of 67.

Councilmember Ashcraft reported that she attended a meeting of the South Bay Cities Council of Governments last Thursday, which included a presentation on the expansion of Los Angeles International Airport scheduled to begin in 2017, and it will include the consolidation of all car rental agencies and the construction of an automated people-mover system.

Councilmember Ashcraft announced that Torrance will be participating in the Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count, which gathers data on the homeless population for use by non-profit organizations and local jurisdictions to make a case for resources to combat homelessness, on Wednesday, January 8. She noted that participants will meet at the First Christian Church, 2930 El Dorado, at 8:00 p.m., and those interested may register at [LAHSA.nationbuilder.com/SouthBay](http://LAHSA.nationbuilder.com/SouthBay) or call 310-650-0950.

Councilmember Weideman reported that last week in his capacity as chair of the Armed Forces Day Parade Committee, he traveled to Coast Guard headquarters in Washington, D.C. to extend an official invitation to the Coast Guard to be the honored service in the 2015 parade and the Coast Guard was pleased to accept. He noted that he also attended the U.S. Conference of Mayors along with Mayor Furey, which was a very valuable experience.

Mayor Furey reported on his attendance at the 83<sup>rd</sup> Annual U.S. Conference of Mayors in Washington, D.C., which included meetings with the Secretaries of Labor, Energy, Housing and Urban Development, Transportation, and Agriculture, a White House reception, and a question-and-answer session with President Obama. He noted that he was also able to attend the President's State of the Union address as a guest of U.S. Congresswoman Maxine Waters.

Mayor Furey announced that per Torrance Municipal Code Section 11.5.1, he was appealing the License Review Board's decision on January 20, 2015 to approve a business license for the Marcelina Day Spa as it's a matter of public concern whether TMC Section 35.14.155 and Ordinance No. 3776 apply to this business license and location.

Councilmember Goodrich reported that while Mayor Furey was in Washington, D.C., he traveled to Sacramento in his capacity as Mayor Pro Tem, along with the mayor of Lomita and the director of the South Bay Workforce Investment Board, to urge approval of Torrance's transfer from the Pacific Gateway Workforce Investment Board to the South Bay Workforce Investment Board and the outcome should be known within 30 days.

**6. COMMUNITY MATTERS**

**6A. FINAL TORRANCE COMMUNITY PROFILE AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCAN**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the Community Development Director that City Council accept and file the Final Torrance Community Profile and Environmental Scan (2014) Book.

Deputy Community Development Director Cessna reported that the Final Torrance Community Profile and Environmental Scan Book has been completed and will be available on-line under Strategic Plan on the City Manager's webpage, as well as at all Torrance libraries, and copies will be available for purchase at the One-Stop Permit Center.

**6B. COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the City Clerk that City Council review applications and appoint members to fill vacancies on the city commissions. The City Clerk will administer the oath of office to commissioners present.

City Clerk Poirier introduced the applicants and they were given an opportunity to address the City Council.

The City Council made the following appointments:

**Airport Commission:** Peter Donnellan, Melvin Glass and Timothy Bohem

**Civil Service:** Cinda Herring and Asam Sheikh

**Cable Television:** Lynn Brennan

**Cultural Arts:** Greg Taylor

**Environmental Quality and Energy:** Kathryn Endo-Roberts and Garrett Wright.

**Library:** Wendy Wengrow and Arthur Plourde

**Parks and Recreation:** Robert Baxter and Karen Greenberg

**Planning:** Milton Herring and Steve Polcari

**Traffic:** Patrick P. Furey, Sue Siani and Dan Thomas (*Mayor Furey recused himself*)

**Water:** John McGee

The City Council directed the City Clerk to re-advertise the remaining vacancies on the Cable Television Advisory Board and the Water Commission, with appointments to be made at a later date.

City Clerk Poirier administered the oath of office to newly appointed commissioners present at the meeting.

The City Council recessed from 7:57 p.m. to 8:06 p.m.

**7. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #1**

**7A.** Darlene Espinet, Torrance, reported that she has received conflicting information regarding whether or not the plans for the auto repair shop approved for 2540 Sepulveda Boulevard (CUP14-00005) have been modified to allow a residential use on the second floor and she has been unable to verify that the person who drew up the plans was licensed to do so.

Community Development Director Gibson advised that the plans approved by the Planning Commission did not include a residential use on the second floor and offered to look into this matter and report back to Ms. Espinet.

**7B.** David Jeheber, Torrance, expressed concerns that the soil at 2540 Sepulveda Boulevard could potentially be contaminated because it was the site of a former gas station and requested information on any testing that has been done at the site.

**7C.** Debbie Hayes, Torrance Historical Society, announced that copies of Louis Zamperini's last book *Don't Give Up, Don't Give In*, autographed by his children Luke and Cynthia and the book's co-author David Rensin, are available at the museum, 1345 Post Avenue, for \$20. She noted that the book signing held the previous Sunday for this book was very successful and another one will be scheduled at the end of March.

**7D.** Janet Payne, Torrance Woman's Club, announced that the club will be hosting a rummage sale on Saturday, January 31, from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the clubhouse located at 1422 Engracia Avenue and donations may be dropped off on Friday, January 30, between 8:00 a.m. and noon.

**7E.** Chef Michael Shafer announced that Saturday evening concerts have resumed in the courtyard adjacent to the Buffalo Fire Department restaurant in downtown Torrance and invited everyone to attend.

**7F.** Jean Adelsman, Torrance Cultural Arts Foundation, announced that "Dancing with the South Bay Stars," featuring 12 local professional dancers, will be held on Saturday, February 7, at 8:00 p.m. in the Armstrong Theatre, with proceeds to benefit non-profit organizations selected by the dancers.

**7G.** Arthur Plourde, Torrance, encouraged the community to donate blood and/or platelets at the American Red Cross facility on Sepulveda Boulevard, with reservations available by calling 1-800-GIVEBLOOD.

**7H.** Lloyd Brown, Torrance, announced that there will be a "Brewery Walk" in downtown Torrance on Saturday, January 31, beginning at 12:30 p.m. at Smog City brewery.

**7I.** Lloyd Brown, Torrance, expressed concerns that signs erected to provide notice of Planning Commission hearings are too small and difficult to read and suggested the possibility of using "pop-up" ads on the City's website.

**7J.** Suzanne Herschenhorn, Torrance, submitted written information about the benefits of trees and expressed concerns about the removal of trees in the Hollywood Riviera area.

**7K.** Mark Stephenson, Torrance, contended that the Torrance Redevelopment Agency improperly used property tax revenues for 30-35 years; that there is currently \$91 million in RDA successor agency debt that is "off the books"; and that this misuse of taxpayer resources will eventually cost a minimum of \$200-350 million. He further contended that the City has failed to file required financial reports or omitted required information on numerous occasions and has failed to meet deadlines for certain financial reports.

## **8. CONSENT CALENDAR**

### **8A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

#### **Recommendation**

Recommendation of the City Clerk that City Council approve the City Council minutes of December 9; December 23, 2014; and January 13, 2015.

**8B. DECEMBER 2014 INVESTMENT REPORT**

Considered out of order, see page 6.

**8C. TRANSFER OF FUNDS FOR PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT PROJECT**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the Chief of Police that City Council authorize a transfer of \$10,654 from the 2013 Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) Grant training budget to FEAP #884 Personal Protective Equipment project for a new not to exceed project budget of \$85,654.

**8D. APPROVAL OF LIBRARY COMMISSION MEETINGS AT BRANCH LIBRARIES**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the Community Services Director that City Council approve of the Library Commission convening five regularly-scheduled meetings in 2015 at the branch libraries rather than at the Katy Geissert Civic Center Library.

**8E. APPROPRIATION OF 2013 CITIZENS OPTIONS FOR PUBLIC SAFETY GRANT FUNDS**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the Chief of Police that City Council appropriate and allocate \$160,326.87 of 2013 Citizens Options for Public Safety (COPS) grant funds, and any interest, to support Police Department programs.

**8F. ANNUAL MAINTENANCE SERVICE AGREEMENT FOR DATA NETWORK DEVICES**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the Communications & Information Technology Director that City Council approve the purchase of an annual maintenance service agreement for data network devices from Cisco Systems, Inc. of San Jose, CA in the amount of \$89,303.98 for the period beginning February 1, 2015, through January 31, 2016.

**8G. AGREEMENT FOR GROUNDWATER MONITORING WELLS**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the Community Development Director that City Council approve a license agreement with Honeywell International, Inc. for seven (7) groundwater monitoring wells.

**8H. PURCHASE OF TORO GROUNDSMASTER MOWERS**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the Community Services Director that the City Council:

- 1) Appropriate \$43,759.31 from the Park Equipment Replacement Fund to the Park Services operating budget for the purchase of two Toro Groundsmaster 3280D mowers; and
- 2) Authorize a sole source purchase to Turf Star Inc. of Vista, CA in the amount of \$43,759.31 for the sole source purchase of two Toro Groundsmaster 3280D mowers.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Griffiths moved for the approval of Consent Calendar Items 8A and 8C through H. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Weideman and passed by unanimous vote.

\*

Consent Calendar Item 8B was considered separately at this time.

**8B. DECEMBER 2014 INVESTMENT REPORT**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the City Treasurer that City Council accept and file the monthly investment report for December 2014.

Mark Stephenson, Torrance, requested information about annual debt service payments for the Water Fund portion of the most recent Redevelopment Agency \$45 million bond refunding.

City Treasurer Cortez advised that the requested information was not available because it was not part of the December 2014 monthly investment report.

Mr. Stephenson voiced his opinion that this process was unduly restricting the public's right to question funding processes and the handling of taxpayer resources.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Griffiths moved to accept and file the report. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Weideman and passed by unanimous vote.

**9. COMMUNITY SERVICES**

**9A. APPROVAL OF CONTRACT FOR 2<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL TRIATHLON**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the Community Services Director that the Council review the findings from staff and approve Pacific Sports LLC hosting a 2nd annual triathlon Sunday, September 13, 2015 near Torrance Beach with the following conditions:

- 1) Meet all conditions of the City of Torrance and the Los Angeles County Beaches and Harbors;
- 2) Ensure all deposits, permits, and reimbursable fees are paid to the City by September 1, 2015;
- 3) Establish a City Administrative Fee of 15% of Gross Receipts for the percentage of the event that takes place on city property matching the requirement by Los Angeles County Department of Beaches and Harbors as all fees are paid by the City for this event; and
- 4) Direct staff to enter into a contract with Pacific Sports to ensure fees are paid and liability is covered for this event.

Community Services Director Jones reported on a survey of affected residents conducted following last year's triathlon held in September 2014, which indicated that 65% were satisfied with the event, 20% were dissatisfied, and 15% had no opinion. He advised that staff also conducted a de-briefing with the Los Angeles County Department of Beaches and Harbors (DBH) and they discussed several conditions to be imposed on any future events, including an administrative fee of 15% of gross receipts calculated on the percentage of the event that takes place on L.A. County property. He advised that staff was recommending that the City impose an administrative fee matching DHB's because the Event Action Plan Team had to spend an inordinate amount of time on the event, especially since they were required to serve as a conduit between DHB and Pacific Sports. He noted that staff was also recommending that Pacific Sports

obtain a performance bond to ensure the payment of these fees and that they be open to an audit to verify that the correct amount of fees are paid.

Councilmember Ashcraft voiced support for staff's recommendation, noting that she supported last year's event with the understanding that it would be revenue neutral. She related her understanding that residents' primary objection was the interference with their ability to attend church services.

Judy Fisher, Paseo de los Reyes, expressed concerns that her neighborhood experienced a great increase in bike traffic as triathlon participants practiced the route creating safety issues because some of the bicyclists rode three abreast and failed to observe stop signs. She also expressed concerns that some triathlon volunteers asked to use residents' bathrooms because there were no restroom facilities. She reported that her home is at the bottom of a steep hill and she observed a number of bike riders who had difficulty making the turn onto Calle de Arboles. She contended that the triathlon was a severe inconvenience for residents and suggested that the on-line survey conducted by staff was not indicative of residents' views because there were only 143 responses, which is approximately 12% of the 1250 homeowners surveyed.

Robert Fisher, Paseo de los Reyes, stated that the event went better than he anticipated, but problems will only increase as the triathlon grows. He reported that ice plant at Torrance Beach was trampled by participants, which could create erosion problems when it rains. He echoed his wife's concerns about bicyclists practicing the route and voiced his opinion that a quiet residential area was not an appropriate venue for this event.

James Donatz, Calle de Arboles, voiced support for the triathlon, stating that he enjoyed interacting with neighbors and believes the event inspires a healthy lifestyle.

Don Heflinger, representing his father who lives on Paseo de Pablo, urged the City to communicate with residents via U.S. mail rather than relying on the Internet since many residents in this area are elderly. He expressed concerns that various signs posted to alert residents of street closures were not consistent in the hours displayed; that some residents were not informed that their normal route of travel would be blocked; and that clean-up did not include the removal of "slow down" signs painted in green paint on the roadway, which took several months to fade. He recommended that the bike route be changed to major streets.

James Roth, Via La Selva, Palos Verdes Estates, voiced concerns that PVE residents received no notice of the triathlon even though they were greatly affected by it. He questioned the expedited process to approve the 2014 triathlon and suggested that Pacific Sport's ties to Herbalife might have been the impetus, but this was never disclosed. He offered to provide a copy of the contract Pacific Sports LLC entered into with the City of Los Angeles for a triathlon in that city, which included a provision that any change in the route required 15 months' notice.

Jean Adelsman, Palos Verdes Boulevard, recommended that City limit the number of this type of events that are allowed and give priority to events that benefit non-profit organizations.

Bill Slaughter, Calle de Arboles, stated that he thought the triathlon was a fantastic, well-run event, which he enjoyed observing, and he looks forward to the next one.

Kurt James, Reese Road, a participant in the triathlon, explained that the triathlon in Torrance differed from events held in other nearby cities because it was Olympic distance and related his understanding that people came from all over the country to participate. He reported

that the turn-around point on the downhill portion of the bike route was fairly treacherous and suggested that a more stretched out route of Calle Mayor to Anza to Torrance Boulevard might alleviate the problem, as well as allow for a grandstand near South High for viewing purposes. He stated that he personally enjoyed the event and thought it was very professionally run.

In response to Councilmember Weideman's inquiry, Police Lieutenant Mark Underwood, Traffic Division, confirmed that the Police Department was involved in the plotting of the bike route for the triathlon and will provide input with regard to any changes.

Councilmember Weideman asked if it would be a deal-breaker if the City imposes a 15% administrative fee on gross receipts as staff has recommended.

Lloyd Taylor, Pacific Sports LLC, stated that the triathlon would not be sustainable with this fee and he has never seen a city impose a fee like this on any event.

Councilmember Goodrich asked if staff anticipates that the planning for this year's event will take less time than the first one.

Community Services Director Jones advised that there will be a reduction in staff hours due to the steep learning curve for the first event, however, significant staff time was involved in serving as the intermediary for the L.A. County DBH and this will not change.

Councilmember Goodrich asked about the possibility of altering the bike route since even those who support the triathlon mentioned concerns about it.

Mr. Taylor responded that Pacific Sports was open to changing the bike route and wants to make it as safe as possible, but changes can only be made with the approval of the Police Department.

Councilmember Goodrich disclosed that he had a phone conversation with Jack Caress, president/CEO of Pacific Sports, yesterday to confirm matters outlined in his letters (Staff Report – Attachments E & G) and to discuss ideas, including branding the event with the Torrance name so the city would recognize a greater benefit. He explained that another thing discussed was different methods for making the City whole for the staff time involved, but he was conflicted on this issue because the City is not always reimbursed for staff time when events are held in Torrance, and he felt it could be considered an investment in this case due to potential economic returns from people who come to the race and spend money in Torrance. He proposed that Pacific Sports work with staff to arrive at an estimate of "billable hours" involved rather than going with an arbitrary figure of 15% of gross receipts.

Councilmember Griffiths questioned why the City has been burdened with handling all the details of the race for L.A. County Department of Beaches and Harbors.

Mr. Taylor responded that he did not know why DBH was requiring this and felt it was an unnecessary complication. He noted that he is involved with other races, including the Hermosa Beach Triathlon, where organizers deal directly with L.A. County.

Councilmember Griffiths asked about the rationale for charging an administrative fee of 15% of gross receipts.

Community Services Director Jones advised that staff recommended an administrative fee that matches the fee being charged by L.A. County DBH for ease of administrative oversight. He estimated that the core team for the 2014 event spent approximately 40 hours each and he spent an additional 80 hours, so unreimbursed staff time totaled approximately \$45,000 and this amount could likely be reduced to \$30,000 for this year's event.

Councilmember Griffiths indicated that he favored imposing an administrative fee based on billable hours rather than an arbitrary figure of 15% of gross receipts, especially since gross receipts fluctuate based on participation and not on the amount of staff time involved. He noted that the City often bills event organizers for police and fire services so it should be possible to do the same thing for other staff services.

Community Services Director Jones advised that the Event Action Plan Team estimated the cost for police and fire personnel to staff last year's triathlon and this was billed to Pacific Sports and paid prior to the event and he believed the same thing could be done for the staff time necessary to plan the race.

Councilmember Griffiths reported that he attended last year's event as a spectator and spent a considerable amount of time visiting the various venues and speaking with neighbors and his overall impression was positive. He related his observation that many people were very excited to have an event like this in Torrance and it provided an opportunity to enhance the city's visibility and generate money for local businesses. Noting that the most contentious issue seems to be the bike route, he indicated that he was open to exploring an alternative route if the event goes forward.

Councilmember Goodrich proposed approving the event, but leaving the amount of the City's administrative fee to be negotiated and brought back at a later date.

Community Services Director Jones and Mr. Taylor indicated that was acceptable to them.

Councilmember Ashcraft indicated that she would not support an administrative fee based on billable hours because it would only be a "guesstimate" since the true cost cannot be determined until after the race and the City could still end up in the hole. She reiterated her support for staff's recommendation to charge an administrative fee of 15% of gross receipts.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Rizzo moved to concur with the staff recommendation, with the exception of Item 3, to be reworded as follows:

- 3) Establish a City Administrative Fee to be negotiated between the parties, which would include the requirement by Los Angeles County Department of Beaches and Harbors as all fees are paid by the City for this event.

The motion was seconded by Councilmember Weideman and passed by a 6-1 vote, with Councilmember Ashcraft voting no.

In response to City Manager Jackson's inquiry, Mayor Furey confirmed that the Council's direction was to explore alternative routes for the bike portion of the race.

The City Council recessed from 9:36 p.m. to 9:58 p.m.

## **12. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

Agenda Items 12I, 12A and 12B were considered out of order at this time.

## **12I. PROPOSED FIVE-YEAR 2015-2020 CAPITAL BUDGET**

### **Recommendation**

Recommendation of the City Manager and Finance Director that City Council provide additional direction for the proposed five-year 2015-2020 Capital Budget.

City Manager Jackson recommended delaying the presentation on the Capital Budget to the meeting of February 10, 2015 due to the lengthy agenda and the lateness of the hour. He noted that any comments this evening will be included in the presentation at that time.

Bob Chiota, South Bay Bocce Courts Project, requested that the Council approve funding for handicap accessible bocce ball courts at Columbia Park, noting that the Parks and Recreation Commission approved \$80,000 from Open Space funding for the project last October and his organization has raised almost \$22,000. He reported that the project enjoys widespread community support and quoted from a letter from the late Louis Zamperini extolling the benefits of the courts for wounded military veterans.

Steve Norris, president of Torrance Arts Council, urged the Council to provide funding for improvements at the Cultural Arts Center, suggesting that some of the cost could be recouped because facilities will command higher rental rates. He reported that there are generous incentives for replacing the outdated lighting system with LED lighting, which also saves on operation costs. He noted that the Ken Miller Recreation Center is in particular need of renovation.

Megan Willis, vice president of Torrance Performing Arts Consortium, echoed calls for improvements to the Cultural Arts Center.

Councilmember Ashcraft questioned whether the City has ever set aside a portion of rental fees collected for Cultural Arts Center facilities to establish a fund for capital improvements.

General Services Director Ballew reported that there used to be a small reserve for this purpose, but it has been depleted due to the downturn in the economy.

## **12A. RESOLUTIONS SETTING PAY RANGES FOR ALL JOB CLASSES**

### **Recommendation**

Recommendation of the City Manager that City Council adopt Resolutions setting pay ranges for all job classes in compliance with CalPERS requirements for reporting employee pay.

Assistant to the City Manager Chaparyan reported that this is a procedural matter necessary to comply with CalPERS requirements and staff is taking action to streamline the process so this will not be necessary in the future.

Mark Stephenson, Torrance, asserted that the City may not offer merit pay because it qualifies as special compensation and it cannot be provided when unfunded pension debt exceeds CalPERS actuarial assumptions per California Code of Regulations Section 571(B)(9), offering statistics to back up his claim.

Assistant City Attorney Sullivan advised that Mr. Stephenson's comments were not pertinent to this item because it only sets pay ranges for all job classes.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Rizzo moved to concur with the staff recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Barnett and passed by unanimous vote.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2015-03**

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE  
ADOPTING THE 2014 PAY RANGES REPORT FOR ALL JOB CLASSES

**MOTION:** Councilmember Goodrich moved to adopt Resolution No. 2015-03. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Ashcraft and passed by unanimous vote.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2015-04**

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE  
ADOPTING THE 2015 PAY RANGES REPORT FOR ALL JOB CLASSES

**MOTION:** Councilmember Goodrich moved to adopt Resolution No. 2015-04. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Ashcraft and passed by unanimous vote.

**12B. RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT FEASIBILITY STUDY OF COMMUNITY CHOICE AGGREGATION**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the City Manager that City Council adopt a Resolution to participate in a non-binding study of feasibility of Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) for the City of Torrance.

Assistant to the City Manager Chaparyan reported that this resolution was being brought forward in accordance with the City Council's direction at the December 9, 2014 City Council meeting. He noted that the cities of Santa Monica, Hermosa Beach, Manhattan Beach and Redondo Beach have adopted similar resolutions.

Councilmember Ashcraft questioned what the feasibility study would entail.

Assistant to the City Manager Chaparyan explained that staff from Community Development, Public Works and the City Manager's office will form a project team to further study Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) and look into ways to partner with other South Bay cities interested in this concept to seek funding opportunities for an in-depth feasibility study by a professional firm.

Councilmember Ashcraft noted that unlike the other cities that have adopted similar resolutions, Torrance has many industrial businesses, and stressed the need to explore the impact CCA would have on these businesses since many, including the ExxonMobil refinery, are heavy energy users.

Assistant to the City Manager Chaparyan confirmed that the impact on all the various industries in Torrance will be thoroughly explored.

Councilmember Ashcraft asked about the amount of staff time involved.

City Manager Jackson advised that staff will be able to handle the preliminary steps as part of their regular work schedule and when any additional funding is required, staff will return to the City Council with a request and methodology for funding.

Arthur Schaper, Torrance, expressed concerns about the City's becoming involved in a CCA program. He stated that there is a lot to suggest that this is not a viable long-term investment for providing cheaper and better energy, noting that a resident of Marin County reported that CCA program there resulted in higher energy costs. He also expressed concerns about the ramifications of Torrance's joining with other South Bay cities to form a Joint Powers Authority and questioned whether this would be a public or private entity. He voiced his opinion that the City's time and resources would be better spent on other issues, such as improving the condition of roadways.

Kitty Adams, Torrance, voiced support for the proposed feasibility study, noting that many positive things have come about as a result of Torrance's collaboration with other local cities.

Isaac Carranza, representing Verengo Solar, which is headquartered in Torrance, provided background information about the company's efforts to reduce energy costs and expressed support for the feasibility study.

Mark Stephenson, Torrance, contended that involvement in a CCA would result in an unprecedented expansion of Torrance's city government; that it would allow the City to enjoy the benefit of additional revenues while taxpayers assume all the risks; and that it would be an unheralded incursion of government into another aspect of citizens' everyday activities. He urged the City to hold town hall meetings on this issue and voiced his opinion that any decision should be put to a vote.

Jim Montgomery, Torrance, voiced support for going forward with the feasibility study, stating that he saw no harm in obtaining additional information about this issue. He reported that he has saved a lot of money by installing solar panels on his residence and purchasing electric vehicles.

Jimmy Gow, Torrance, urged support of the proposed resolution because it is non-binding and the USC study on CCA presented to the Council last month indicates a strong potential for bringing jobs and economic benefits to Torrance, as well as lower rates, cleaner energy and local control of the energy supply. He noted that the Marin County CCA generated 2400 jobs.

Joe Galliani, Torrance, reported that he was involved in the drafting of the proposed resolution and has worked to bring attention to this issue. He provided background information about the Marin Clean Energy CCA, noting that a Chevron refinery is located in Richmond, a city comparable to Torrance that is part of Marin Clean Energy program and related his understanding that there have been no issues.

Councilmember Ashcraft noted that the Chevron refinery in El Segundo supplies its own power and questioned whether this is true in Richmond.

Mr. Galliani indicated that he did not know, but would find out. He shared statistics from Marin Clean Energy, indicating that it saved customers a total of \$5.9 million last year, with average savings of \$34 per resident, \$166 per commercial customer, and \$97 per agricultural customer. He explained that Torrance is the largest of the 16 cities approached about joining this effort and would serve in a leadership role by sheer weight of its electrical consumption. He urged the Council to approve the non-binding, no-cost resolution.

Councilmember Griffiths expressed support for moving forward with the non-binding feasibility study.

In response to Councilmember Goodrich's inquiry, Assistant to the City Manager Chaparyan reported that the other four South Bay cities that approved similar resolutions passed them unanimously with the exception of Santa Monica where a councilman recused himself due to ties to an energy consultant. He provided clarification regarding the composition of a Joint Powers Authority.

Indicating that he would support the resolution, Councilmember Goodrich noted that the Council rarely has the opportunity to do something that could result in so many potential benefits and related his belief that it was well worth the relatively small amount of staff time to take the next step.

Mayor Furey stated that he personally has experienced a 20% increase in energy costs over the last three years and was excited to look into any alternative. He pointed out that currently Southern California Edison is the sole source provider of energy in Torrance and suggested that injecting some competitiveness may be helpful. He voiced his opinion that it would be myopic not to explore ways to get consumers a better deal, noting that the public will have ample opportunity to provide input during the process.

Councilmember Rizzo stated that he thought it was important to keep an open mind on this issue and explore options that could potentially benefit the citizens of our community.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Rizzo moved to concur with the staff recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Barnett and passed by unanimous vote.

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 2015-05**

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE  
TO PARTICIPATE IN THE STUDY OF FEASIBILITY OF COMMUNITY  
CHOICE AGGREGATION FOR THE CITY OF TORRANCE

**MOTION:** Councilmember Goodrich moved to adopt Resolution No. 2015-05. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Ashcraft and passed by unanimous vote.

The meeting resumed in regular agenda order.

### **10. PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

#### **10A. CONTRACT FOR ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING INFRASTRUCTURE**

##### **Recommendation**

Recommendation of the Community Development Director that City Council award a contract to ChargePoint, Incorporated of Campbell, CA for \$468,213 with a 5% project contingency of \$23,411 to provide, manage and maintain publicly accessible electric vehicle charging infrastructure in the City of Torrance (RFP B2014-30).

Planning Assistant Lang provided an overview of the proposed contract with ChargePoint Incorporated for electric vehicle charging infrastructure, noting that the contract is for a period of three years, with two additional one-year extensions. She reported that at the Council's direction, staff discussed the potential of the City's receiving a portion of profits from the use of charging stations and while the agreement currently does not provide for profit-sharing, language was included requiring this issue to be revisited prior to renewal of the contract. She explained that this would allow both staff and the vendor to examine usage patterns of the EV charging stations rather than trying to develop a model using forecasted data and determine whether profit sharing was economically viable. She advised that the City will own the EV charging infrastructure and will therefore have the option of changing vendors after the initial contract term if a mutually acceptable profit-sharing agreement cannot be reached.

At Councilmember Weideman's request, Planning Assistant Lang reviewed funding sources for the project as follows: \$405,940 grant from California Energy Commission; \$56,000 grant from the Mobile Source Reduction Committee; \$56,000 in AB266 subvention funds; and approximately \$14,000 from the Community Development operating budget.

Councilmember Ashcraft thanked staff for meeting with her to discuss this project, noting that she was the one who brought up profit sharing. She related her understanding that this is such a new business, only a few companies are installing EV infrastructure so it's not possible to accurately forecast profits at this time therefore discussion of profit-sharing has been delayed until the end of three-year term of the contract when more data will be available. She asked about the existing EV charging stations at City Hall, which are currently free.

Planning Assistant Lang advised that it has not been decided what to do with these charging stations, but they will no longer be free once the new stations have been installed.

In response to Councilmember Goodrich's inquiry, Planning Assistant Lang reported that ChargePoint initially proposed having the EV charging stations operational by summer 2015, but contract issues have caused a slight delay, however staff was hopeful that the infrastructure will be completed in time for a National Drive Electric Week event scheduled for September.

Kitty Adams, Torrance, noted that she is executive director of Adopt-a-Charger, a non-profit organization that installs EV charging equipment, and the organization also received a grant from the California Energy Commission. She commended staff for obtaining grant funding for this project and related her belief that the charging stations will attract people to Torrance who will spend money at local businesses. She reported that a lot of companies have gone out of business trying to create a successful business model for operating EV charging infrastructure. She expressed concerns that the contract allows the vendor to offer incentive programs tied to automotive OEM programs, which could result in BMW owners receiving preferential pricing not available to owners of other makes of EVs since BMW has an ownership interest in ChargePoint.

Joe Galliani, Torrance, commended staff for obtaining funding for this project. He noted that Ms. Adams is highly knowledgeable about electric vehicles and could be a valuable resource.

Jim Montgomery, Torrance, stated that he was proud to live in such a forward-thinking city and echoed commendations to staff. He reported that he has owned EVs for many years and he and his wife frequent cities that have EV infrastructure.

Mayor Furey noted that Sr. Planning Associate Santana was an integral part of bringing this project to fruition, which has taken a number of years.

In response to Councilmember Griffiths' inquiry, Planning Assistant Lang confirmed that any change to the rate structure for EV charging must be brought back to the Council.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Rizzo moved to concur with the staff recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Barnett and passed by unanimous vote.

## **12C. AGREEMENT FOR PURCHASE OF IMPORTED WATER SUPPLIES**

### **Recommendation**

Recommendation of the Water Commission and Public Works Director that City Council approve a 10-year water purchase agreement with the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) in the amount of \$18 to \$25 million per year for the purchase of imported water supplies for a term extending through calendar 2024.

Public Works Director Beste reported that staff was recommending that the City enter into a 10-year water purchase agreement with the Metropolitan Water District. He explained that the agreement requires a minimum water purchase, however this minimum may not be met if the City develops more local water supplies as anticipated, therefore a provision was included providing an exemption if this occurs.

Mark Stephenson, Torrance, requested clarification regarding the tiered rate structure, which was provided by Public Works Director Beste.

Mayor Furey reported that water was a topic of discussion at the U.S. Conference of Mayors and a survey conducted by another city revealed that Torrance's water rates compare very favorably with other cities.

Councilmember Ashcraft noted that her residence is among those in Torrance not serviced by the City of Torrance Water Department so she does not enjoy the same favorable rate.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Rizzo moved to concur with the staff recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Barnett and passed by unanimous vote.

## **12D. AGREEMENT RE MISCELLANEOUS SEWER MAIN IMPROVEMENTS AND REPAIRS**

### **Recommendation**

Recommendation of the Public Works Director that City Council:

- 1) Adopt finding of a categorical exemption per staff determination, pursuant to Section 15301(c) of the guidelines implementing California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for the Miscellaneous Sewer Main Improvements and Repairs, I-61/I-149;
- 2) Approve the specifications for the construction of the Miscellaneous Sewer Main Improvements and Repairs, I-61/I-149 (B2014-59); and

- 3) Award a two-year public works agreement to Ramona, Inc. of Arcadia, CA in the amount of \$635,535 and authorize a 10% contingency in the amount of \$63,553.50 for the construction of the Miscellaneous Sewer Main Improvements and Repairs, I-61/I-149 (B2014-59).

Project Manager Overstreet provided an overview of Miscellaneous Sewer Main Improvements and Repairs, I-61/I-149, noting that the project is expected to begin in March and be completed by August.

Councilmember Barnett commended Project Manager Overstreet for her work on this project.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Rizzo moved to concur with the staff recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Barnett and passed by unanimous vote.

## **12E. AGREEMENT/APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS RE INTELLIGENT TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM AND TRAFFIC IMPROVEMENTS**

### **Recommendation**

Recommendation of the Public Works Director that City Council:

- 1) Approve the funding agreement Call for Projects (CFP) ID #F3312 - ITS and Traffic Improvements to be executed with Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority ("LACMTA"); and
- 2) Upon approval of funding agreement, appropriate \$966,616 to IAP T 146 Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) and Traffic Improvements supplemented, by City matching funds in the amount of \$396,735 for a not to exceed total budget of \$1,363,351.

Sepidah Sedadi, Public Works Department, provided an overview of the Intelligent Transportation (ITS) and Traffic Improvements Project, noting that the City will receive \$966,616 in reimbursement from LACMTA.

Charles Deemer, Torrance, requested clarification of the scope of the project, which was provided by Ms. Sedadi.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Rizzo moved to concur with the staff recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Barnett and passed by unanimous vote.

## **12F. AGREEMENT RE PALOS VERDES BOULEVARD REHABILITATION PROJECT**

### **Recommendation**

Recommendation of the Public Works Director that City Council:

- 1) Adopt finding of categorical exemption per staff determination pursuant to section 15301(c) of the guidelines implementing California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for the Palos Verdes Boulevard Rehabilitation, I-121;
- 2) Approve the plans and specifications for construction of the Palos Verdes Boulevard Rehabilitation, I-121 (B2014-42);
- 3) Appropriate \$259,901 from the Sewer Enterprise Fund balance to the Palos Verdes Boulevard Rehabilitation, I-121;

- 4) Approve and execute a Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Torrance and the City of Redondo Beach, establishing the terms and conditions related to constructing improvements within the City of Redondo Beach;
- 5) Accept a check in the amount of \$370,496.78 from the City of Redondo Beach and appropriate said funds into the Palos Verdes Boulevard Rehabilitation, I-121 for a new not to exceed budget of \$3,481,880.78;
- 6) Award a two-year public works agreement to Sully Miller Contracting Company of Brea, CA in the amount of \$2,765,284.50 and authorize a 10% contingency in the amount of \$276,528 for a total not to exceed amount of \$3,041,812.50 for construction of the Palos Verdes Boulevard Rehabilitation, I-121; and
- 7) Approve a one year consulting services agreement to perform construction inspection services for the Palos Verdes Boulevard Rehabilitation, I-121, to Onward Engineering of Anaheim, CA, in the amount of \$97,260.

Engineering Manager Overstreet provided an overview of the Palos Verdes Boulevard Rehabilitation Project, noting that the project has been coordinated with the City of Redondo Beach. She reported that construction is scheduled to begin in March and be completed by August 2015 and it is not expected to interfere with the triathlon to be held in September 2015.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Rizzo moved to concur with the staff recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Barnett and passed by unanimous vote.

**12G. EXTENSION OF CONTRACT TO PROVIDE UTILITY BILLING SERVICES FOR CITY WATER, SEWER AND REFUSE ACCOUNTS**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the Finance Director that Council approve the first (of two) three-year options to extend the contract with Global Water Management LLC. (C2010-201) from February 1, 2015 through January 31, 2018 to provide utility billing and customer service for approximately 26,000 business and residential customers of the City of Torrance as follows:

- 1) Year one expenditure: \$497,756.06, plus postage;
- 2) Year two expenditure: \$497,756.06, plus CPI-W\*, plus postage; and
- 3) Year three expenditure: Second year annual amount, plus CPI-W\* plus postage \*CPI-W (Consumer Price Index - Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers, Los Angeles) not to exceed 4%.

Finance Director Tsao advised that staff was recommending that the City exercise its option to extend the contract with Global Water Management LLC for an additional three years.

Councilmember Goodrich reported that he and other residents have experienced problems with this provider, including a lack of responsiveness to customer service issues and difficulties with emailed notifications, and the level of service was not what he would expect from a professional company servicing the City of Torrance.

Finance Director Tsao advised that staff will relay Councilmember Goodrich's concerns to Global Water Management and work with them to improve service.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Rizzo moved to concur with the staff recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Barnett and passed by unanimous vote.

**12H. EXTENSION OF CONTRACT TO PROVIDE UTILITY SERVICES FOR ADDITIONAL SEWER ACCOUNTS IN THE CALIFORNIA WATER SERVICES COMPANY AREA**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of the Finance Director that Council approve the first (of two) three-year options to extend the contract with Global Water Management LLC. (C2012-167) from February 1, 2015 through January 31, 2018 to provide utility billing and customer services for sewer-only accounts in the California Water Services Company service area for approximately 10,000 customers of the City of Torrance as follows:

- 1) Year one expenditure: \$76,492.13, plus postage;
- 2) Year two expenditure: \$76,492.13, plus CPI-W\*, plus postage; and
- 3) Year three expenditure: Second year annual amount, plus CPI-W\*, plus postage. \*CPI-W (Consumer Price Index - Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers, Los Angeles) not to exceed 4%.

Finance Director Tsao reported that staff was recommending the extension of this contract with Global Water Management, noting that the company agreed to handle these sewer-only accounts for the California Water Services area after the previous provider declined to provide this service in 2012.

In response to Councilmember Ashcraft's inquiry, Finance Director Tsao advised that the City can terminate the contract with one-year's notice.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Rizzo moved to concur with the staff recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Barnett and passed by unanimous vote.

**13. HEARINGS**

**13A. ALLOCATION/APPROPRIATION OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT FUNDS**

**Recommendation**

Recommendation of Community Development Director that City Council:

- 1) Conduct a public hearing and consider public input; and
- 2) Adopt a Resolution authorizing the allocation and appropriation of 2015- 2016 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds as follows: Sidewalk Repair for handicap accessibility \$669,830.

Mayor Furey announced that this was the time and place for a public hearing on this matter. City Clerk Poirier confirmed that the hearing was properly advertised.

Deputy Community Development Director Cessna reported that staff is recommending that 2015-2016 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds totaling \$669,830 be allocated for sidewalk repairs throughout the city to improve handicap accessibility.

As no one from the public came forward to speak, the public hearing was closed.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Rizzo moved to close the public hearing. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Barnett and passed by unanimous vote.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Rizzo moved to concur with the staff recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Barnett and passed by unanimous vote.

## RESOLUTION NO. 2015-06

### A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE APPROVING THE CITY'S COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015-2016

**MOTION:** Councilmember Goodrich moved to adopt Resolution No. 2015-06. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Ashcraft and passed by unanimous vote.

#### **13B. RENEWAL OF TORRANCE TOURISM BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT**

##### **Recommendation**

Recommendation of the City Manager that the City Council:

- 1) Conduct a public hearing to allow testimony regarding the renewal of the Torrance Tourism Business Improvement District (TTBID) and proposed continued assessments on lodging businesses therein; and
- 2) Adopt a Resolution of Formation renewing the Torrance Tourism Business Improvement District (TTBID) and continuing assessments.

Mayor Furey announced that this was the time and place for a public hearing on this matter. City Clerk Poirier confirmed that the hearing was properly advertised.

Economic Development Manager Fulton provided background information about the Torrance Tourism Business Improvement District (TTBID) formed in 2009. She reported that all lodging businesses in Torrance with more than 50 rooms are included in the district; that an annual assessment of 1% of gross revenues is levied on participating hotels, which is paid into a fund governed by the Discover Torrance Board of Directors; and that the City of Torrance contributes \$33,000 annually to participate as a voting member. She explained that the City used to contribute this amount to the Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce to fund a Visitors Bureau, but the Chamber no longer operates one. She noted that Discover Torrance presents a yearly report to the City Council in October and a copy of the October 2014 report was included as an attachment to the agenda item; that Discover Torrance meetings are open to the public; and that financials are audited on an annual basis and are available for review.

Mayor Furey voiced his opinion that the value of the TTBID was incontrovertible.

Charles Deemer, Torrance, noted that the financial report in the agenda item shows a profit for 2013 and questioned whether the intention was to create a reserve for a large project or if this was a one-time situation.

Economic Development Manager Fulton explained that the surplus is a carryover from funds collected and the intention of Discover Torrance is to use the majority of funds for marketing and advertising, however, there has been some discussion about a shuttle service and excess funds could be applied to this.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Rizzo moved to close the public hearing. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Barnett and passed by unanimous vote.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Rizzo moved to concur with the staff recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Barnett and passed by unanimous vote.

